MONTEREY NEWS

May 2015

Est. 1970 Vol. XLV · Number 5

The Town

By Dave Irland

Notes on select board meetings from March 23 through April 13

Transfer Station

This month's discussion over the transfer station began with Stanley Ross from the finance committee holding back approval of the special warrant article needed to vote funds for the proposed new transfer station at an estimated $314,000. Over the several meetings during which this was discussed, he mainly stressed that the town meeting article needs to be well prepared, "chapter and verse," to override both his and the town's possible skepticism.

Progress was made in the following weeks. Shawn Tryon, director of operations, explained to the board and to Mr. Ross that site borings had been done, an engineering firm was working on the plans for the proposal, and that he expected to have those plans in two weeks time. Mr. Ross felt that with those plans the finance committee would have a much more detailed picture, without which it was too early to comment on the finances.

Kenn Basler responded by repeatedly pointing out that since 1987, when the transfer station committee was first formed, the town had been "kicking the can down the road," and that very soon what he called "big safety" issues would take center stage.

At a subsequent meeting at which all these issues were again aired, Dennis Lynch brought up the topic of possible methane seepage from the nearby old landfill and organic waste, which was met with measured interest overall. Methane gasses from old landfills, according to him, had been known to cause explosions and loss of life in buildings sited near or on said landfills. Wayne Burkhart, select board chair, said it was now something that needed to be examined. Shawn Tryon agreed that although none of the official agencies involved (such as the DEP) has brought up the topic, and despite the completed site boring having passed inspection, it was a good idea to look into the methane risk since public safety is of primary importance. Larry Klein suggested trying to get a letter from the DEP signing off on the site as methane-free.

Another attendee at the meeting expressed dismay that he'd never been informed of the proposed project in detail. He also asked why the project was even necessary, to which Mr. Burkhart explained that every year the transfer station is flunked by the state inspector (citing issues such as bad traffic flow, no guardrails, crumbling dumpster pads, etc.). He was told that an article for the *Monterey News* on that specific topic was in the works. (See the Select Board Corner, p. 25)

Whenever the new transfer station does get commissioned, it is going to need an attendant, a frequent topic of discussion

At the Candidates' Forum on April 18, Scott Jenssen, Larry Klein, and many others had questions for our two select board candidates, Jon Sylbert and Steven Weisz. See p. for a report on the discussion. (Photos by Bonner McAllester.)

among the select board, Shawn Tryon, and others. The problem lies in the relatively specialized skill set this person will need in order to manage the relatively sophisticated recycling and traffic flow, as well as all the minutiae of a modern transfer station. It will be difficult for the highway department to fill this person's vacancies in the event of sick days or time off, given his or her special skill set. The discussion wasn't closed out in any way and will no doubt continue, as it ties in with the specifics of the contracts the town might make with haulers. Currently, Master Garbologist provides the attendant, but in the future the town is looking toward providing its own attendant to tighten control of the operation.

In the most recent meeting, Mr. Tryon presented to the board the promised set of transfer station drawings, prepared by Berkshire Geo-Technologies, and said that he was looking into "preliminary pricing." The board also got into a discussion of dual-stream versus single-stream recycling. Mr. Tryon said that he would make sure the station was designed for dual-stream (in which glass, plastic, and aluminum are separated from paper, requiring two containers as we have now) which would simply provide more space for single-stream should the town move to that in the future. He also assured the board that the roof would be designed to bear solar panels should the town want to make it a solar-powered facility at any point.

For more on the transfer station, see page 25.

Monterey Broadband

During the March 23 select board meeting, Stanley Ross, head of the finance committee, expressed concerns about the extent of debt the town may be taking on, particularly as it pertains to the WiredWest cooperative broadband project, given that at the time of the meeting only 17% of Monterey residents had pledged to subscribe to the service. Stan abstained from supporting the bond to finance the fiber optic infrastructure on the grounds that there were still too many uncertainties and contingencies. Larry Klein, former chair of the WiredWest technology committee, pointed out that approving the bond is not the same as actually borrowing the money should the town ultimately vote it down. Daniel Moriarity, also from the finance committee, felt strongly that it was not fair to ask Monterey residents to pay twice, once in the form of higher real estate taxes and again for phone and internet service, calling this "capricious and discretionary."

However, it was agreed by all parties present that having the select board and the finance committee speak, in Mr. Klein's words, "in a unified voice" would help broadband make its way into Monterey. Stanley Ross did assert his "total support" of broadband in Monterey in general terms, and stated that his concerns were strictly financial.

Larry Klein defended WiredWest's financial viability, citing its 70 to 80% subscription rate in many towns in which WiredWest hopes to operate, and so, realistically, he is not worried about the cooperative's ability to earn positive revenue. (As of April 17, on register.wiredwest.net, Monterey has reached 31% of the 40% subscription rate necessary.)

Select board member Kenn Basler reiterated that the town's solvency depends on real estate, and without modern infrastructure, including high speed broadband, property values will start to fall. Buyers for Monterey properties might look elsewhere in the face of poor internet access.

Town Hall Building

After reviewing various estimates for re-roofing the town hall, the board determined that the benefits of metal roofing outweigh the relatively small cost difference (roughly $60,000 to do the whole roof with metal versus $23,500 to $25,500 to do just the older half with asphalt singles). Metal roofing would have two to three times the service life of asphalt. At this point it needs to be determined whether it would make sense to split the roof into two separate re-roofing projects, since the town hall was roofed in halves at least ten years apart. This would cost the town quite a bit less in the short term. However, economies of scale will also figure into the final numbers, and it might prove more frugal in the long run to have it done all at once. Nothing has been decided so far.

Library Dam

The finance committee discussed with the board what is informally being called "the library dam." The Department of Conservation and Recreation has declined to pay for the cost of repairing the dam, as has the Army Corps of Engineers, due to it being a less-than-life-threatening situation. However, FEMA awarded the project a grant of $12,000 some time ago. These funds have been stored in "free cash" but have not yet been spent. Therefore, they can be considered part of the "special revenue" cash account and, as such, "ready to go," according to Muriel Lazzarini.

ॐ

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Town Government Management

The question of whether or not to hire a part-time town administrator came up again, as a way of smoothing out town hall functioning. Wayne Burkhart mentioned that if Joe Kellogg, interim town administrator of Chester, MA, could come in and teach the board about how the town hall works, hiring an administrator might not be necessary. He pointed out this might only cost the town about five hundred dollars, as opposed to adding a salary to the payroll. However, foregoing an administrator also might mean longer select board hours, though in his opinion, the board is not overworked.

Route 23 Paving Project

In a rare high point, Kenn Basler announced that the State of Massachusetts has granted Monterey $200,000 to replace approximately all forty culverts along Route 23, most of which are past their expected service life. This was very welcome news, given the uncertainty as to who was going to pay for the culverts, which, until now, had been left out of the Route 23 repaving project. Foresight Engineering, from Pittsfield, will be designing the project and also overseeing the contractor, Palmer Paving of Palmer, MA. The state will also have a supervising engineer on hand throughout the project. According to Mr. Tryon, Foresight's participation is welcomed by the state, as they would prefer not to have to come back for corrections or repairs.

The anticipated completion date is March 2016.

What follows is additional information from Shawn Tryon on the paving project.

The $200,000 for culvert replacement is in addition to the $3.5 million dollars allocated, which includes 10% for contingencies. Cost over-runs beyond this will be the responsibility of the town.

There will be three different approaches to the roadwork. Most of the road from the town lines with Great Barrington and Otis will be rebuilt in a similar fashion to the work done in selected sections a few years ago. The road will be ground down twelve inches deep, then the ground materials laid back down and compacted as new roadbed. On top of these rebuilt sections will be a new 4.5 inch layer of asphalt. In the center of town the road surface will be milled down 1.5 inches, and then a new top layer applied. The rebuilt sections from before will also receive an additional topcoat of asphalt.

In addition, in some places, the guard rails will be removed, the shoulders scraped, and new guard rails meeting current standards will be installed.

Shawn tells us to expect some detours, which they will try to keep to a minimum, to become part of our driving experience this year. The town is looking at ways to help keep us informed of progress and the upcoming work. Monterey actually has little say over the project, as it has been contracted by the state, so information isn't easily available, but they will do what they can to keep us informed.

MaryPaul Yates

Laurie Shaw retired after twenty-five years as a library trustee. Carol Edelman (left), also a former trustee, was present to celebrate Laurie's service, along with some of the original board members, Eileen Clawson, Linda Thorpe, and John Higgins. The original board Laurie was elected to also included Mark Mendel and Anne Marie Makuc.

PETER S. VALLIANOS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
✤
413-528-0055
fax: 413-528-6475
email: p.vallianos@verizon.net

30 years experience in Monterey serving your real estate needs including purchase and sales, zoning issues.
Board Member,
Monterey Preservation Land Trust

New location convenient to Monterey
30 Stockbridge Road (Route 7)
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(Just north of Belcher Square)

May 5th Town Election Slate

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 5, not on town meeting day. The new day was approved at the 2011 town meeting so that the election would not be disruptive to the meeting. Polls will be open from 12 noon until 7 p.m. at the Monterey firehouse.

Below is the slate for the election. Incumbents are indicated by asterisks.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years)
Jon Sylbert (D)
Steven Weisz (R)
Zoning Board of Appeals (5 years)
Susan Cooper (D)
Ian Jenkins (R)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Donald Hopkins*
Board of Health (3 years)
Roy Carwile
Cemetery Commission (3 years)
Linda Thorpe*
Finance Committee (3 years)
Bill (BJ) Johnson
Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)
Beth Reiter*
MaryPaul Yates*
Library Trustee (2 years)
Susan Gallant (D)
Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc*
Park Commission (3 years, vote for 2)
Kelly Tryon*
Peter Poirier
Planning Board (5 years)
Stephen Enoch*
Planning Board (2 years)
Pat Soloman
Town Clerk (3 years)
Jennifer Brown*
Tree Warden (1 year)
Winston Wilson*

Berkshire Greenscapes
Organic & Sustainable Garden Care
413-207-1281
www.berkshiregreenscapes.com

Town Election Candidates Statements

Candidates for all offices were invited to submit statements to the *Monterey News*. This year we have two contested seats, for select board and zoning board of appeals. Below are the statements we received.

Select Board (3 years)

Steven Weisz

I love Monterey. It is my home. I can't think of any place that I would rather live. Because of this, I have deeply immersed myself in all aspects of Monterey life; from the arts and culture, to the operations at town hall.

What I have learned is that when the people of our town work together, support each other, and keep the lines of communication open, we can do anything (anyone remember "Monterey lights the way"?)

What I have also learned is that when we stop talking to each other, withhold our support for Monterey's institutions, or take a 'hands off' approach to town government, we all lose.

That is why I am running for select board.

During the course of this year, you might have heard Monterey described as a "$4.5 million business that is hard to manage." This is true. However, where I differ is my belief that an engaged, supportive and cohesive select board is what is needed to keep the management challenges of our town under control.

Why am I so sure? Because I have actually run three companies and I know from experience what it takes to manage a business and inspire people. I am actually pretty good at it.

Folks, there are no quick fixes. We need to get our own house in order before looking to add a town administrator or additional layers of government.

I have worked hard to build a solid, respectful, and professional relationship with the employees of the town and with your other selectmen, Kenn Basler and Scott Jenssen. I am eager to join them to form a select board that will serve you, and the town of Monterey, well.

I live on Bidwell Road. I am a semi-retired businessman and former actor.

During my lifetime, I have owned and operated three businesses, sat on the boards of various institutions from the arts and historical societies, to planning and zoning boards, to business development and Chambers of Commerce.

This year, I have served Monterey as the chairman of the Historic Commission, treasurer of the local Cultural Council, committee member for the selection of our director of operations, and as a member of the town hall structure committee.

I have also represented Monterey at the Southern Berkshire Regional School

Every Community
Has At Least
One REALTOR®
Like Nancy Kalodner.
(In the Berkshires,
it's Nancy Kalodner.)
413-528-9595
nancybenchmark@verizon.net
BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

District hearings, volunteered at the annual Bidwell House Museum gala and at the community center, and helped restore the Monterey community bulletin board.

In my spare time, I enjoy cooking and gardening and restoring old houses and automobiles (you may have seen my Checker taxi in town).

Jon Sylbert

Dear Monterey Residents,

As I wrote in the *Monterey News* last month, I've decided to run for Select Board after a three-year hiatus.

Local governance has become more complex over recent years, and the town has now reached a critical juncture where greater demands of time and professional experience are required from town leaders. The town hall restructure committee has begun a serious exploration into hiring a part-time town administrator—shared with another town—to provide the kind of expertise necessary to support the board in running a municipality with a nearly $4 million gross budget and dozens of employees and appointed and elected officials. As it turns out, our neighboring town of New Marlborough also is currently exploring this same option, and we would be wise to coordinate with them on securing such services jointly. I'd like to make sure this opportunity is realized rather than squandered.

Also, after ten years on the board and three years off, I've been made keenly aware of the frustrations many residents feel about participating in town governance. Tolerance for differing opinions and opposing views has been increasingly in short supply, and many people who attend town meeting find it impossible to ask questions, share their opinion, or vote their conscience with their voices or hands. This is the downside of small-town life, where no one wants to publicly vote against articles their friends and neighbors support. Instead, everyone votes for everything, or remains silent, so that each voter's preferred articles pass. It's an unspoken "you vote for my pet project and I'll vote for yours." We all go home getting what we wanted, but secretly resenting other expenditures we must now pay for.

In all my years on the select board, I've always felt my foremost duty was to provide the public with all the information they need to vote knowledgeably, but I now believe it may also be necessary to provide them with the privacy to do so securely. Using an electronic voting system might be a good solution, one that would encourage both more attendance and more participation at town meeting.

As always, I encourage all of you to attend town meeting on Saturday, May 2, and to come out and vote for the candidate of your choice on Tuesday, May 5. Your opinions matter most and deserve to be heard.

My wife Lisa and I moved to the Berkshires twenty years ago and have raised our two sons in Monterey. I work for an economic and educational nonprofit and Lisa works as a sign language interpreter for the deaf. I was a planning board member for one term and a Select Board member for ten years, during which time the Southern Berkshire Regional School District negotiated a very contentious and critical restatement of our agreement. Monterey was also involved in many other important issues—too many to mention here—while I was on the Select Board. I'm the president of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust, and Lisa is on the library board, and we, our children, and my mother, who lives around the corner from us, have enjoyed the pleasure of growing and changing along with the rest of you here in town. If we could make one small adjustment, it would be to switch our zip code to 93940, where our west coast sister town sits on a Pacific bluff, at least between January and April.

Zoning Board of Appeals (5 yrs.)

Ian Jenkins

I am seeking the open seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) that Cynthia Weber has ably held for many years. For the past several years I have served as an alternate on the Board and participated in a number of decisions.

The ZBA is entrusted with reconciling the by-laws of Monterey regarding land use, specifically zoning requirements and the changes property owner wish to make to their properties.

In the early 1970's zoning was introduced in Monterey. Motivated by a thrust to preserve the rural character of the community the town created the framework of our land use policies. Maintaining this rural character has thrived partially due to the success of and the use of zoning, land placed in conservations trusts, agricultural protection and the high cost of building lots. Multiple individuals have >

Tailored:
Stitched, Patched, Threaded, Pinned.
Miriam Dym - Michael Ensminger
Jessica Rosner - Barbarie Rothstein
Karen Shaw - Suzan Shutan
Debra Smith - Audrey Stone
and the collaboration LoVid
curated by Dee Shapiro
May 8 - June 20
Opening reception: Sat., May 9, 6:30-8pm
with curator talk at 6
KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library
Supported by Friends of the Monterey Library
Talk sponsored by Massachusetts & Monterey Cultural Councils

The Children's Attic
Maternity & Children's Spring 2015 Consignment Sale!
Volunteers shop Early!
Saturday, May 30 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Sunday, May 31 9:00 am – noon
(Many items will be half price on Sunday)
Community Health Programs (route 7 campus)
444 Stockbridge Rd Great Barrington
For more info call: 413-528-0457
CHP
Sponsored by CHP Family Services

(Ian Jenkins, ZBA, cont. from p. 5)
understood our values, and worked hard to implement them.

We face, currently, some unique challenges. Of the approximately 850 dwellings in Town, it is estimated that 42% are non-conforming. In order for a homeowner to modify a non-conforming structure, a "Special Permit" is required, which entails a hearing, by the ZBA.

Many of the non-conforming dwellings were constructed during the boom after WWII in the 1950's and 60's. Often they were constructed on less than half-acre lots and with minimum set-backs. They were frequently constructed around our waterfronts. Additionally, there are many other dwellings around town that are non-conforming.

The non-conforming properties at the time zoning was introduced were "grandfathered in" and the non-conforming issues were tolerated. However, houses, like people, age and require upkeep and structural renovations. Non-conforming properties require a special permit for modification. Additionally, homeowners have aspirations for their property and how they want to enjoy them has evolved. Adding contemporary structural amenities or a deck can further enhance the pleasure of the property.

It is within this framework that the ZBA works. How do we balance the evolving needs of the homeowner, the By-Laws of the Town and commonsense. The courts give great latitude and respect, to the local ZBA, to work within the guidelines to determine what is "detrimental to the community" when denying a permit. One must remember that the ZBA is not implementing it's own ideology of land use policy but rather are implementing that of the town as written by the Planning Board.

We are all concerned with environmental issues. I have heard it said, that we must "incorporate or make use of" environmental policy in the deliberations of the ZBA. This is a disingenuous appeal and those efforts with regards to environmental concerns should be directed towards the Planning Board.

I came to Monterey in 1983 as a weekender and evolved quickly into a year-round resident. During the mid 90's I was on the board of directors for the *Monterey News* for many years. I was very active with the 1997 Sesquicentennial Celebration of the town. I served as the associate editor of the two hundred page souvenir book about the town's history along with Peter Murkett (editor). I researched and wrote several articles relating to and about land use policy and history in Monterey. I firmly believe we must take the best values from the past, see why they were successful, understand how they were implemented, use the lessons, and accommodate to our Town's future.

I feel prepared and qualified to assume the responsibility of sitting on the ZBA. I ask for your vote.

Planning Board (2 years)

Pat Salomon

The Monterey Planning Board has the specific task of evaluating plans for land division and permit applications, as reflected in Monterey's Zoning by-laws, or drafting for the community new by-laws. While sitting in with the Planning Board as a temporary appointee, I got a sense of how serious their decisions are, and how thoroughly the planning board must, and does, weigh plans brought before them. I heard important input from competing interests in the community and could see how how these must be balanced. The Planning Board stands at the center of important challenges for Monterey. How do we both preserve what is unique, time-tested, and wonderful about Monterey, and at the same time help it move into the future, meeting currently unmet needs? I'd like to contribute to this process.

Parks Commission (3 years)

Kelly Tryon

Having served one year on the Parks and Recreation Commission, I have come to learn how the commission plays a huge role in the Monterey community. Working alongside the other commission members, I will strive to maintain the commission's commitment to providing quality parks and recreation facilities for the town.

ABC
Allentuck Building Company
Licensed & Insured Carpentry Services
in Southern Berkshire County
Home Repair Made as Simple as ABC
Josh Allentuck:
413-329-6260
Prioritize your home repair needs...
Just say HELP!

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law
500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245
ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK
Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter
Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available
PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

Board of Health (3 years)

Roy Carwile

I have been a resident of Monterey since 2007 and a homeowner here since 2012. For the past five years, I have been a CPR- and EMT-trained first responder with the Monterey Fire Company. I have also done volunteer work for the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, Gould Farm, and the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad. I have a master's degree in geochemistry, am a registered geologist, hold an instrument pilot license, and like to fish.

I retired from a 33-year career with the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) in 2003, mainly working as a manager of air, solid waste, and groundwater issues in the corporate office. I am familiar with both state and federal regulations on air and solid waste pollution as well as groundwater problems. I have extensive experience with both ambient and workplace exposures in those three areas and their effects on human, animal, and plant health. I would enjoy further serving the town of Monterey.

Memorial Day Activities in Monterey

Veterans Memorial Ceremony

The public is invited to join the 19th annual Monterey Memorial Day Observance at 11 a.m., May 25, 2015. The ceremonies will take place at Veterans Memorial Park, at the intersection of Route 23 and Blue Hill Road. This is a ceremony to honor war dead from all the past wars our nation has fought, beginning with the Civil War. Once called Decoration Day, when Americans decorated the graves of soldiers lost in combat, it has become a memorial to their contribution to the nation. At the same time, it gives us pause to reflect on the human price of war.

Program speakers Pastor Elizabeth Goodman, Mary Kate Jordan and George Emmons will help prompt our reflections, as program speakers. Command Sergeant Major Julio Rodriguez will lead a twelve-gun salute by a rifle squad of veterans.

—Veterans Memorial Committee

Memorial Day Parade

At 1 p.m. we will have our traditional town parade starting at the junction of Sandisfield Road and Route 23 and parading down through the center of town and ending at the firehouse pavilion. There will be a short remembrance service in front of the church where the select board will lay wreaths commemorating the fallen in past wars. As always, there will be hot dogs and ice cream for all at the parade's end at the firehouse, and music by FirePitt.

BERC
BERKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

- Environmental Permits
- Lake, Pond, and Fisheries Management
- Invasive Plant Management

Thomas Coote, Director: 413-644-4509
tcoote@simons-rock.edu

Community
Garden
plant sale
Sunday May 24 10-1
At the Monterey Community Center 468 Main Road
Rt 23 one block east of the Monterey Store

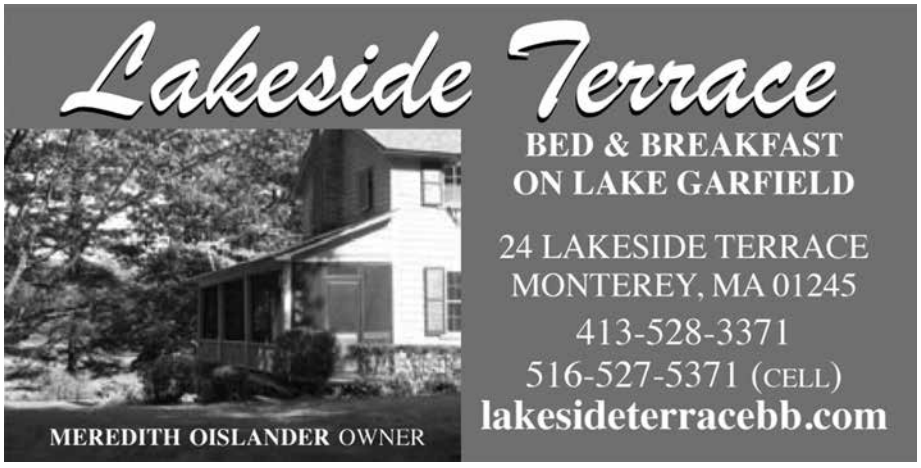
Bottomline Builders
Monterey, MA · (413) 528-1260

We are a detail-oriented, full-service, hands-on contracting and building company located in Monterey, MA. From foundation to finish, we provide the know-how to 'exceed your expectations.' Whether you want a built-in bookcase, a new sunroom, family room, or your new country home, our crew delivers the craftsmanship and courtesy you expect and deserve.

PO Box 567
155 Main Road
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 528-1260

bottomlinebuilders.com
Scott Jenssen

scott@bottomlinebuilders.net
Massachusetts CSL 62673 - Massachusetts HIC 133864



Candidates' Forum
April 18

Jon Sylbert and Steven Weisz appeared Saturday, April 18, in the basement of the meetinghouse, each hoping to fill the upcoming vacancy left by the retiring select board chairperson, Wayne Burkhart. Nearly forty people interested in what they might have to say joined the candidates. The *Monterey News* sponsored the forum, with Liz Goodman and Stephen Moore as moderators.

Steven Weisz was first with opening remarks, and sketched out his typical day in Monterey, a town he told the crowd he "fell in love with" on arrival, consequently having since that time "immersed himself in all things Monterey."

If elected, Mr. Weisz says he would like to address town hall and police department squabbles, concentrate on finishing projects (Monterey is engaged in many), attempt to invigorate agriculture, (according to him, "what made Monterey great"). He noted his work on the Town Hall Structure Committee, and that he has an interest in improving lines of communication between employees.

Mr. Weisz told the audience that his interest in running was inspired by the family-like atmosphere of the town, and expressed his passion for working within that family to make the town safe and affordable.

In John Sylbert's opening statement, as a former select board member, he pointed out that "about fifty to fifty-five percent" of the audience were current or former town employees or officials, and took the opportunity to express an ongoing interest in engaging more of the rank-and-file townspeople in the goings on at town hall. He pointed out that the people in attendance represented the thousand (give or take) who live in Monterey, and suggested the relatively small turnout as symptomatic of the problems with local government. "Government is in the business of providing services to the town," he said, and the essence of governing lay in figuring out "what we want, how much it will cost, and can we make it work."

Having been in town twenty years, he has seen that the job of selectman is not avidly sought after, and feels that in a larger sense volunteerism and small government is at risk. He further noted that Monterey runs on an approximately four-million-dollar budget, essentially a business, and one that is "way more complex" than in the past. The reason he seeks a seat on the board, after a three-year hiatus, is to simply "find more help to run the town."

A question was asked regarding an issue that's been discussed of late: How would the candidate approach the question of changing certain elected positions to appointed (i.e., more "professional") employees, as the complexity of the town government increases over time?

Mr. Sylbert pointed out that Monterey is the last town with such a large budget that doesn't have a professional administrator. The town is not, he joked, a communist country, and basically "works great." He said the people involved in the direct democracy of town meetings "have a ball" working through the warrant, but the town was in fact at a tipping point in the direction of needing professional help with day-to-day operations. However, he still believes in elected positions "across the board," despite the fact that not a lot of folks are looking for those jobs. He further pointed out that the risk in using appointments is that they "concentrate power." He offered, as a specific example of the need to keep many positions elected, that the finance committee should absolutely remain an elected board so they maintain the independence to develop their own budget with which to compare to the recommendations of the select board.

Mr. Weisz felt that first and foremost, all Monterey positions needed to be held by Monterey residents, though as the complexity of running the town increases, there was the risk of asking too much of elected officials. The complexity of a four-million-dollar budget is only increased if said elected official isn't experienced.

Mr. Weisz also pointed out that most town clerks are appointed, due to the importance of the job and the fact that he or she needs to be there all week long. With the big second-home population of Monterey, much of their activity at town hall needs to happen on weekends. Appointed officials could have their work times established for them, whereas elected officials can set their own times.

He then went on to ask, rhetorically, if the town wants to cede the responsibility of running a four-million-dollar budget

to an in-town person when someone from outside of Monterey might in fact have more skills.

He added that from his work on the town hall structural committee, he'd seen town hall employees express frustration that there was no "go to" person on the board for answers, but cautioned that "once you add a layer of government, it's hard to remove it," and that, therefore, it was important to try the simplest way first. He expressed an interest in seeing through the process of the structural committee's work and recommendations, suggesting that perhaps the town could hire some consultants to help better organize town management. But in the end, if it became necessary, he said he was "one hundred percent" in favor of a town administrator, if the board decided to go that way.

The next question from the moderators concerned the scope of the many projects facing the town: What tools or strategies would you recommend for helping the town assess, plan for, and balance the needs of the many large projects facing the town?

Mr. Sylbert felt that a ten-year capital budget was important, which is not news: it is why the town has a finance committee. Projects, he felt, come and go "in waves," and it is necessary to spread them out over time as much as possible to even out the debt load on the town; to borrow if necessary; and most importantly, to maintain "transparency with the town." Mr. Sylbert also mentioned the way that projects get "bunched up," and mentioned the need for long-range planning, and if a project can wait, "great."

Mr. Weisz agreed with Mr. Sylbert, but added the importance of researching projects to assess their level of necessity. He stated that, as a way to help the community center project, he still believes in selling the Bally Gally house on the community center property, which he believed would be within the dictates of Edith Wilson's will.

There were many questions from the audience on a wide range of town issues.

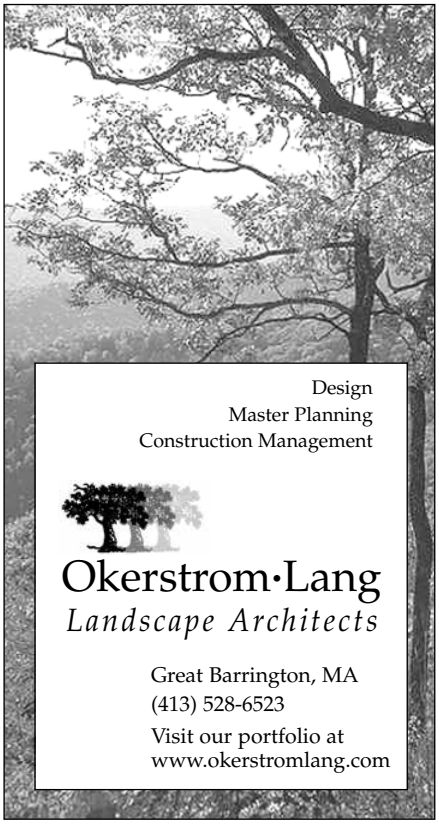
Larry Klein, WiredWest Technical Advisor, asked a question initially directed at Mr. Sylbert, who he had not seen at any of the meetings concerning WiredWest, "How does Monterey move forward with broadband, which will be a major investment?"

Mr. Sylbert answered that the town needed high-speed broadband, no question, pointing out that the free-market system in communications in Massachusetts will not serve rural areas. He further claimed that he'd be willing to put up a thousand dollars himself to support it. However, he was concerned about the fact that the costs won't be shared equally among townspeople, pointing out potential hook-up fees for people, and that Verizon currently has a "box by the fire station" capable of providing a 10-mega-bytes-per-second internet connection. If they saw fit to activate it as a way of offering a lower cost alternative, the WiredWest bond could become a burden. He then strongly encouraged everyone in town to sign up for the refundable forty-nine-dollar pledge on the WiredWest site to "push it as far as we can."

Mr. Weisz said that he "hands down" votes for better internet access in town. Affordable land values and fast internet will keep young people here, he said, and noted that he had attended WiredWest meetings in search of information. He does have questions about the cost projections, and was looking for further detailed information in order to "talk intelligently" about the issue.

(Mr. Klein interjected that it had been decided that the first 750 feet of hook-up from the road was to be provided by WiredWest free of additional charge.)

Scott Jenssen, current select board member, had a question for Mr. Sylbert. According to Mr. Jenssen, when Mr. Sylbert resigned from the board, he "defamed" Mr. Jenssen and Mr. Burkhart with his complaint of a violation of the open >



SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
5 HAMMERTOWN RD, SANDISFIELD, MA ♦ 413-258-4100
Funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Local Cultural Councils
INFO/TICKETS: SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG
may
In the Gallery
May 2 - 31
Works in Clay
created by June Wink
Photos by Geoffrey Coelho
SATURDAY, MAY 2 2-4 PM
Opening Reception
SATURDAY, MAY 2 4PM
BFWW Spring Reading in Honor of May Day on the Theme of LABOR
SATURDAY, MAY 9 7PM
Second Annual
Spring Dinner & Benefit Auction
SATURDAY, MAY 16 7PM
Sally-Jane Heit
For A Woman Her Age
SUNDAY, MAY 24 4PM
Music by Brahms and Mahler
(The Ferris Burtis Music Foundation)
SATURDAY, MAY 30 10AM
Reading Local History
talk with Ron Bernard
and Gary Leveille

(Candidates' Forum, cont. p. 11.)
meeting law. Further investigation from the attorney general cleared them both of this charge. Had it occurred to Mr. Sylbert in the years since to apologize, and to address it with his former board members?

Mr. Sylbert welcomed the question, saying that open meeting law complaints were filed "all the time," and that this law was a critical part of local government. At the time of his resignation he'd been recommending the town look for a way to pay less than the then-90% of a town employee's health insurance. According to him, an executive session was illegally scheduled to discuss the issue, and he advised against having the meeting. Further, he doesn't feel he owes an apology, because filing the complaint was his right. Mr. Sylbert said that if he'd done something wrong, he would be interested in hearing about it.

One questioner, pointing out that we have one of the smallest school districts in the area, wanted to know what each candidate's views were on education in Monterey.

Mr. Weisz said that the school districts were under a "terrible burden." Monterey's one-room schoolhouse was one of only three left in the state. He advised that people were mistaken in the belief that closing the Monterey school would magically "fill the holes in the budget," and that in fact each taxpayer in the school district might realize (according to his research) about a two-dollar-per-year difference in tax burden. He proposed to push to keep the school in Monterey, and warned that the mere threat of closing it may be partially responsible for low enrollment.

Mr. Sylbert countered that Monterey was probably not the smallest school district, and warned that consolidation was inevitable. He pointed out the recent decision on a twenty-five-year roof in a district that doesn't have twenty-five years left. He has a record, however, of defending the school "tooth and nail," and at one time spent six months negotiating with five other towns to prevent a state takeover. He turned to the audience and posed this question: If the town wants the school to be open next year, they would have to do something radical. Do they want it to stay open? If they do, they best show up at town meeting to support the school.

Pat Salomon directed a question to Mr. Sylbert. She stated that he brought his skill and analysis to a "breaking point" and hurt the town, rather than working out a compromise at the time of his resignation. While she respected his principles, she wondered if he is today in a "different place" as far as collective decision-making with the a board.

Mr. Sylbert said that the real reason for his resignation was a lack of communication that had reached a state of dysfunction. He had supported the town employees for ten years, asked if all parties could meet halfway, was told (as he put it) "nope," and so felt he lacked support to continue on the board.

However, in his further defense, he continued to write about the issue, and kept pushing for lower health insurance compensation for town employees, and in time the policy was changed. The same employees who fought him in that policy change were now, he said, "begging him" to get back on the board, which explained his presence there before the questioner.

Both candidates then had an opportunity to make closing statements, beginning with Mr. Weisz. He pointed out that he would not be a king, a president, or a mayor, and felt it would be important to serve with Mr. Jenssen and Mr. Basler. What is most important, he said, is the fashion in which you have the conversation in pursuit of "doing the people's work."

Mr. Sylbert jokingly wondered if Mr. Weisz thought he, Mr. Sylbert, in fact wanted to be king; in actuality, he felt that in the past he had worked well with the large number of people he'd come across, encouraged people to stick up for what they want, and would like to put them "in the driver's seat." He went on to address the "tough" tax burden on lower income people in town, and mentioned a residential property tax exemption, which could cut off the bottom $60,000–$100,000 from property assessments. It is an example of a progressive tax policy "worth looking into."

Once the select board candidates were done, an invitation to other candidates to stand and introduce themselves went out. Ian Jenkins, candidate for a five-year term on the zoning board of appeals, stood and gave a short speech about his views on the role of the ZBA, which are also in his candidate statement in this issue.

—Dave Irland

Harvest Barn Bakery
***at* Gould Farm**

Sat & Sun 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(Self-Serve Wed - Fri 9:00 - 3:00)

Gould Road in Monterey
413.644.9718

GOULD FARM
Harvesting Hope • Promoting Recovery

TRYON STONEWORKS
Native Fieldstone Walls | Landscape & Excavation Services

Enhance your landscape. Define your natural space.
Quality and experienced craftsmanship for 25 years

Professional stone & landscape design by Roger Tryon of Monterey, MA

413.528.4091 | berkshiremaple@verizon.net | tryonstoneworks.com

May at the Knox Gallery

Painter Dee Shapiro developed and curated our next Knox Gallery exhibit, *Tailored: Stitched, Patched, Threaded, & Pinned*, which features works by Miriam Dym, Michael Ensminger, Colab LoVid, Jessica Rosner, Barbarie Rothstein, Karen Shaw, Suzan Shutan, Debra Smith, and Audrey Stone. The work Shapiro selected from these artists illustrates their use of the tools and techniques of tailoring to create unique works of art. The exhibiting artists, who utilize thread, pins, and fabric—whether sewn, assembled, or patched—to create unique works of art, are based throughout New England and New York and have exhibited at galleries and museums nationally and internationally.

The exhibit will open Friday, May 8, with a reception the next evening, Saturday, May 9, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Shapiro will talk about the exhibit and the participating artists beginning at 6 p.m.

Knox's co-director, Julie Shapiro (no relation), had asked Shapiro if she would be interested in curating an exhibition for us. At the time, Dee Shapiro was researching material for a biography of her grandmother. Shapiro was drawn to the work of numerous artists who use the same materials her grandmother—a garment worker in New York City who had sewn all her life—used, but in entirely different ways. We are all familiar with the functional and decorative uses of tailoring, but this exhibit crosses the line of that expectation. These beautiful and interesting two- and three-dimensional pieces surely do not resemble the results of her grandmother's efforts.

Shapiro's own work, in which she currently uses collage and focuses on pattern, will not be featured in this exhibition but will comprise a solo show at Five Points Gallery in Torrington, CT, during the month of July. She has participated in several Knox Gallery group shows, and her work is included in university, corporate, and private collections and in museums, including the Guggenheim Museum. She teaches at SUNY Empire State and writes and curates between paintings. Shapiro lives in New York City and maintains a residence in Colebrook, Connecticut.

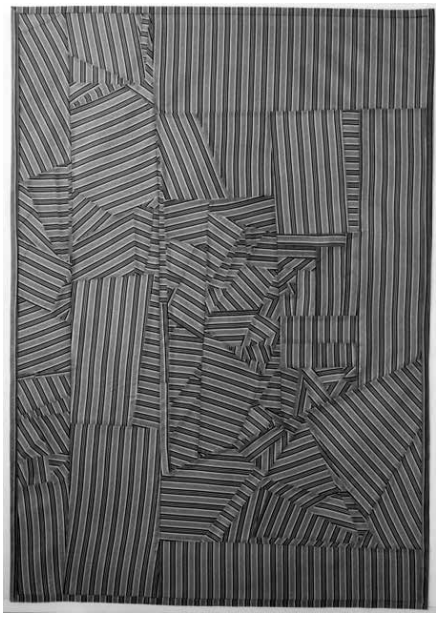
Above: "Pinned," ©Karen Shaw. Shaw translates words into numbers and the reverse, and pins them in this old case. Below: "Sewing Circle," ©Suzan Shutan. Shutan's work utilizes embroidery hoop and spools of thread.

Tailored: Stitched, Patched, Threaded, & Pinned will be on view through June 20. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

MaryPaul Yates

Exhibit curator Dee Shapiro



"Restructured Series #2" ©Debra Smith. Vintage lining from men's suits.

Serving Monterey for over 30 years Call Jay 528-5099

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

Community Potluck Supper
May 20

Chief Backhaus and Sergeant Johnson did a much-appreciated presentation on identity theft at the April 15 potluck, despite the fact that they had not received many handouts from the state. They showed a great video on how to protect your important information: NO! Don't throw your financial papers into the paper recycling at the transfer station! Even in Monterey, that's not safe. If anyone is interested, there will be handouts available soon at the town hall.

For our next potluck, we are very excited to present a documentary that was recently shown at the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers, *Disruption*, by Pamela Yates. A band of Latin American activist economists partnering with women marginalized by poverty sets out to change their region, and challenge accepted notions of how to eradicate inequality. Through this program, the women become empowered economic and political agents in their communities. If the model is scaled up, could twenty million women up-end a continent?

The next Monterey community potluck dinner will be held in the fellowship hall of the Monterey meetinghouse on May 20, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce

Maureen Banner

Muriel Lazzarini, Sarah Hudson, and George Cain listening closely to one of the select board candidates during the April 18 forum.

School District News

Budget for 2015-2016

The school committee and the administration worked hard to bring the member towns a budget for fiscal year 2016 that reflects our commitment to keeping costs manageable for taxpayers. The administration level- or negative-funded every line item that fell within their discretion. The resulting budget had an increase of 3.34%. This increase is the result of contractual commitments that must be honored and a one-time increase in the cost of health insurance.

At this point, any further cutting would result in the loss of teaching positions and programs. There is nothing else left to cut. We are proud of our district: state robotics champs for the third year in a row, national recognition for our outstanding music education program, and our high school was named one of the top high schools in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*. We do not want to jeopardize the quality education we're providing children in this district, and we want to keep drawing more families to our area with our commitment to education. I hope we have your support for our annual budget and I welcome any questions you may have before town meeting.

Mt. Everett Roof and Boilers

Thank you to all the Monterey residents who braved the cold of February to come to the special town meeting to vote on the school district's boiler and roof project. All five member towns approved the bond for the project, securing the participation of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in moving this project ahead at a 39% savings to our taxpayers. We are currently taking bids on the project and hope to complete it before the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

—Maria Rundle
Monterey School Committee
528-4963, mariarundle@gmail.com

G. E. MUNSON
SATELLITE &
PROPERTY CARE
DISH NETWORK/DIRECTV
SATELLITE INTERNET
HD TV ANTENNA SYSTEMS
HOME THEATRE &
SURROUND SOUND SYSTEMS
SEASONAL CARETAKING
YEAR-ROUND MAINTENANCE
OF YOUR HOME & PROPERTY
call George (413) 258-4887
email: munsonsat@aol.com
P.O. Box 518, Monterey, MA 01255
(fully insured)

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 17 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Return of the Wood Duck

As the ice moved out in April with warming temperatures across the Berkshires, migratory waterfowl dropped in with whistling wings to the first liberated waters along the edges of lakes, ponds, and streams. Among them came Wood Ducks. According to Jody Soules of Wild Birds Country Store in Great Barrington, who sells Wood Duck nesting boxes, the females are ready to lay between seven and fifteen eggs that incubate for an average of thirty days before hatching in May.

Jody tells me that if nesting boxes are placed too close together, females may lay eggs in their neighbors box, which then may contain as many as thirty eggs that will get only partial incubation. According to Ducks Unlimited, Wood Ducks choose their nesting cavities during the period prior to their fall migration. In the early spring, they're able to return to the same locations and begin their nesting very quickly. Jeff Mosher at the hatchery has installed two nest boxes in the roadside fishing pond, well spaced out, and over water for a special reason.

A safe nesting site is paramount for all wildlife. Wood Ducks may choose to nest in the cavity of a tree as high as fifty feet above the ground to thwart the possible threat of a climbing predator. Wood Ducks also have sharp claws at the ends of webbed feet and for that reason are known as perching ducks, comfortable high up in the trees.

The day after hatching, the ducklings are called by their mother to leap down and follow her to swim and find food such as seeds, berries, and acorns. When ducklings are called by their mother, even if high over land (according to Dick Tryon who has seen this spectacle), those ducklings unable to fly are so light and fluffy they literally bounce off the ground for a soft landing, ready to head for water.

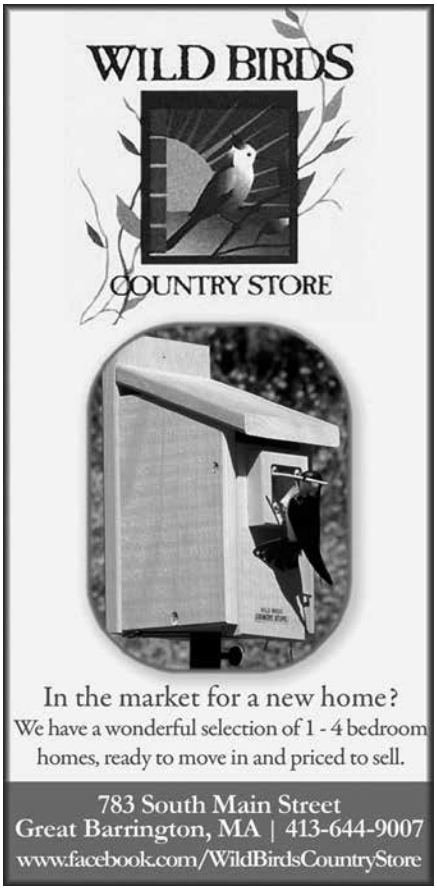
Mothering in all wild birds is exemplary, and the selection and protection of nesting sites is critical. The mother Partridge or Killdeer Plover along Gould Road will feint a broken wing and flop down in front of a predator to draw it away from the nest. The Woodcock on Wellman Road who thinks her nest has been discovered will move her eggs by picking them up, one by one, between her legs and flying low over the ground to a more secret location.

More remarkable is the Wood Duck's distinctive appearance. The males have bright red eyes, an iridescent, crested-shaped head, and multi-colored body plumage. The females are less colorful, but with teal-colored wing tips. They usually see you before you see them. When flushed, the male emits a rising whistle, *jeeee-jeeee*, and the females a drawn-out squeal, *do-weep, do-weep*. The Wood Duck may look like a duck and walk like a duck, but like it's nearest relative, the Asian Mandarin Duck of China and Japan, it doesn't quack like a duck.

They may be found along the edges of the wooded shores of Lake Garfield, or perched on fallen tree trunks near marshes along New Marlboro, Mount Hunger, or Hupi Roads. The expanding beaver population has also created wetland nesting and rearing sites, so look for them near beaver ponds. Wood Duck populations have increased due to the work of people purchasing and placing nesting boxes in favorable habitats. Also, limiting the numbers taken during waterfowl hunting season to only two per day has been critical, as, next to the Mallard, they are the most hunted duck in America.

The migratory return and increased numbers of Wood Ducks is rewarding for bird watchers, especially when successful reproduction produces hatchlings on parade before our very eyes, living proof of an unbroken chain of their seasonal renewal!

—George Emmons

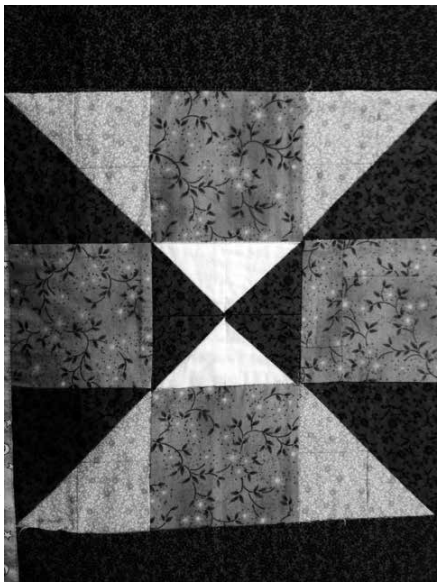

WILD BIRDS
COUNTRY STORE
In the market for a new home?
We have a wonderful selection of 1 - 4 bedroom homes, ready to move in and priced to sell.
783 South Main Street
Great Barrington, MA | 413-644-9007
www.facebook.com/WildBirdsCountryStore

Peace and Plenty

The jet lifted off from a Santiago runway, and as it rose higher I watched the cordillera grow smaller. Thirty-one years ago, I was on my way home to mi casa en el Norte, as I might have said in my stumbling spanish, after twelve weeks in Chile. In South America, folks experience May as a calendar-equivalent to our November, so fall was just beginning to slide toward winter when my plane took off.

Stepping into a Berkshire May morning less than a day later sent shock waves through me. I drank in our spring wealth, all blue, green, and birdsong. I inhaled air fragrant with apple blossoms. My friends, my home, my work were all waiting for the happy reunion we shared. So why, thirty-one years later, do I still remember that I'd been crying on the plane long after the cloud cover hid the Andes from sight?

I cried when I left Chile because my journey had been so rich and, though three months long, so brief. After arriving, I grabbed a few hours of sleep in Santiago, then traveled twelve hours due south from Santiago by train, bus, van, and river ferry to Temuco, Coipue, and Luz del Sur; then all three Villaricas: the volcano, the national forest, and the town. After a couple of months in the south, I swung back to Santiago for a trek twelve hours due north by bus, and then a few hours further—seated on my luggage in the back of a pickup truck—to the ashram where I spent Easter. Then south again for my last weeks in Santiago. My trek spanned the narrow country from Vina del Mar on the Pacific coast to an Indian reservation on the Argentine border. I met people from all three Americas: Chile, Equador, Bolivia, Guatamala, the US, and Canada. I met others from Germany, from England, and from India. I met Chileans who were educated in Europe and others who'd never traveled more than fifteen miles from their birthplaces.



Mary Kate Jordan

This traditional quilt block is named Peace and Plenty.

What broke my heart, even to come back here, was leaving the people. Everywhere I went, I was welcomed and made to feel at home. Everywhere I went, I was surrounded by folks whose hearts were rich with peace and plenty. Even in the midst of the political regime headed by Pinochet. Even after we'd navigated a couple of earthquakes.

Monterey is almost exactly due north of the Pacific coast of Chile. I never noticed that bit of trivia until I made the trek back and forth. Now I wonder if there's something about longitude, as well as attitude, here. Maybe we live on some kind of geographic ley line where the people make the place.

—Mary Kate Jordan

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

Monterey School

REGISTER FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Kindergarten: This program is for children who will be 5 years old before October 1, 2015.
Early Kindergarten: An early kindergarten program for children who turn age 5 between October 1, 2015 and May 1, 2016. These are both full-day programs.

Call Rose Glaszcz at 229-8754, ext. 377 or email rglaszcz@sbrsd.org to set up a time to visit the school.

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates
DBA:
Berkshire Geo-Technologies
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Perc Testing
Septic Design
Sewer & Water System Design
Residential & Commercial Site Design
Drainage Design
Structural Evaluation & Design
Retaining Wall Design
Foundation Design
Construction Layout
Driveway Design & Permitting
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

441 Main Road
P.O. Box 61
Monterey, MA 01245
413-429-4888
berkshiregeotech@gmail.com

Wet-Foot Dry-Foot

'Wet Foot-Dry Foot' is the informal name given to a 1995 agreement under which Cuban migrants seeking passage to the United States who are intercepted at sea ('wet feet') are sent back to Cuba or to a third country, while those who make it to U.S. soil ('dry feet') are allowed to remain in the United States. —Washington Post

Only Dr. Seuss could pen a law like this—

wet foot, dry foot
one fish, two fish—
cat and mouse at Sea.
Wet sock, dry sock
three fish, four fish
back you're sent, or free.

Only Congress can change a law like this—

wet toe, dry toe
five fish, six fish—
dodge the light and duck.
Wet shoe, dry shoe
seven fish, eight fish
call the wind for luck.

—Melissa Hamilton

Spring and War

It's spring and war is blooming over Baghdad
Yet my soul still sings as cells remember
The smell and touch to fingers and feet
Of newly thawing ground
This world is sweet with the ozone heavy air
Of a first spring day
Sweet for easy-pulling weeds to uncover
New growth shooting up to the sun

The contrast is not graspable
But I know it—others are in danger
Or making danger—all are suffering
I have that "sickness unto death" feeling
Anxious sad woe-begone
The way of the world is too much
I watch the sunlight and measure the wind

— Elizabeth Silk, February 2014

Stephen Moore

And so we say goodbye, gladly—Konkapot Falls below Bidwell Park.

Monterey's Broadband Future

WiredWest bond vote Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m.

The time has come for us to take action to ensure Monterey remains a desirable place to live, work, retire or raise a family. We have a very special town, but the lack of high-speed internet is hurting many residents, and will impact everyone in the coming years if we don't take action to bring twenty-first century telecommunications infrastructure here.

WiredWest is all of us. It's a municipal lighting plant (MLP) cooperative that allows towns to cooperatively finance, build, and operate telecommunications networks. Monterey created an MLP within the town in 2011 and became a charter member of WiredWest. This is the best way to bring true broadband to Monterey. Recently the FCC upgraded the definition of broadband as 25 mbps download speed. In Monterey, those people who do have access to DSL service typically have only 2.8 mbps, putting us in the bottom 20% nationwide, and we still have households relying on dial-up connections.

The Reasons for WiredWest

Universal Coverage

The WiredWest plan ensures everyone in town that wants service will have access. Verizon has clearly stated that they intend to get out of the copper landline business. Private telecom companies have not and will not do that in rural towns. Instead, they "cherry pick" the most profitable customers, creating "digital dead zones" where they don't offer service. Today broadband is considered critical infrastructure, just like electricity, and everyone needs access.

Affordable Pricing

Because WiredWest is a municipal cooperative created by the towns, for the towns, we don't have to pay profits to shareholders or owners like a private business would. This means we can provide state-of-the-art internet, phone, and video services at affordable rates.

Internet packages start at speeds of 25 mbps, which is many times faster than any available alternatives, for $49/month. Bundled with phone, it's $74/month. And your phone will be crystal clear, even when it rains. Included in the basic package is the cost to install the first 750 feet to residences for people who sign up during the initial signup period. There will also be higher-speed packages and TV packages, as well as special pricing for seasonal residents. And no data caps like satellite or wireless on the amount of data you download every month.

High-Capacity, Reliable, Future-Proof Technology

Fiber is the gold standard for telecommunications networks, used today to transmit data at the speed of light around the world. It will provide more than enough capacity to last generations and meet our ever-increasing needs for bandwidth, supporting small business applications, streaming music and video, (including high-definition, and the coming ultra high-definition), file sharing, videoconferencing and telemedicine.

It will also better support mobile phones if you are without service. If you have fiber to your home, installing a cellular extender from the mobile provider of your choice will give you excellent cell service on your property.

State Subsidy

The state will cover about 35% of the cost for construction of a regional fiber network. This is an opportunity for us to build multigenerational infrastructure in our community for a significant discount.

Financial sustainability

A critical concern is that the operation be able to sustain itself through revenues to minimize the financial risk to towns. Multiple towns working together spreads the costs of operating the system across a larger subscriber base, offers economies of scale in construction and operation, and significantly reduces risks to towns of trying to operate their own town networks.

Additionally, the WiredWest model strives to minimize the financial burden to towns by:

- Imposing a minimum subscriber requirement of 40% that aligns with sustainability of the financial projections
- Structuring the model so that after all

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:
413-528-5850
www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.

Barnbrook
www.BarnbrookRealty.com

DAGMAR KUBES
Broker Associate, ABR
★
Superior Real-Estate Service tailored to your needs.
★
413 528-6485
E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net

SELL * BUY * RENT

operational expenses and depreciation reserve are covered, remaining revenue is distributed back to the towns to cover debt service.

WiredWest has used very conservative assumptions for our revenue projections, and based on those, it appears debt service should be covered from year five or six onwards, which would eliminate the need for the town to pay debt service from property taxes in those years.

Making This Happen in Monterey

First, 40% of the households must sign a conditional commitment for service and make a refundable $49 deposit, to be applied towards the first month's bill. WiredWest will not build in a town until that condition is met, so please sign up at wiredwest.net and make sure all your friends and neighbors have as well.

Second, a two-thirds vote in a town meeting is needed to authorize borrowing the funds. Monterey must contribute its share of network construction costs, but only after the state puts in its money. At an estimated $1.9 million, this is a major commitment for Monterey, but a critical step towards securing our town's future. Our town meeting to consider this bond is scheduled for Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m., at the Monterey firehouse. There will be a presentation on the project prior to voting. Following are some important considerations for Monterey's participation and the bond vote.

Governance of WiredWest

A new WiredWest Cooperative will be formed that consists only of towns that are financially participating in the initiative. Joining requires only a vote of the select board. Voting in the new WiredWest Cooperative will be proportional based on the value of each town's financial contribution to the network, which is driven by each town's costs. Towns that delay passing the bond obligation can still be members of the newly-formed Cooperative, but will be without voting rights until the bond is passed.

Bond Passage Timing

The sooner a town fulfills the minimum subscribers and passes the bond, the sooner planning and construction will start, and the sooner we will have services available over the WiredWest network here in Monterey. Towns that delay passage of the bond also delay provision of service to local residents.

Minimizing Town Debt

Money for construction of the project is only raised as needed, to minimize borrowing costs. To reduce money borrowed and debt service, the state funding is the first money to be spent; the first two years are structured as interest-only; and some early revenues will go into capital costs.

During the first four to five years of construction, the towns will utilize low-interest instruments called Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs), which can be converted to a fifteen-year bond by year five. Such BAN payments are quite small and relatively insignificant, representing typically only a few thousand dollars in the first two years.

Starting in year three, the towns will start to pay partial principal. Any excess revenue that is generated by the towns that are lit (operating fiber) in the later part of year two, year three, and year four will be contributed to the cost of building the network. This will reduce the amount that each town will have to borrow in those years.

The precise strategies Monterey will utilize to raise the funds will be determined by our town treasurer, with advice from the town's financial advisor. >

Mad Scot
Small Engine Repair

Lawn Mowers
Tractors
Tillers
Chain Saws
Snowblowers

Many years' experience on all types of small engines.

Chains and blades sharpened.

Don Clawson
Box 26
Monterey 01245

Pickup and delivery.
Local service.
Reasonable rates.

(413) 528-3257

Woodruff Mountain
Landscaping

Whether you are looking to renovate, rejuvenate, or just simply maintain your existing landscape, please contact Woodruff Mountain Landscaping to help you.
We offer a full line of outdoor services and are fully equipped and properly trained to help with any landscape construction project; excavation, stone walls & patios, tree & plant care, and driveway repair, to name a few.

Please call Tom Brazie to further discuss your projects needs.
References and portfolios available upon request.
Proudly servicing our area for over 15 years.

413-229-2919
woodruffmountain@aol.com

Provisions & Produce
Prepared foods
Pastries
Breakfast & Lunch

And so much more...
Open every day!

448 Main Road.
528-5900
www.monterey-general-store.com

M G S
MONTEREY
GENERAL STORE
EST. 1780

(WiredWest, cont. p. 17.)

Covering Town's Debt Service

Excess revenue is any money that is left over after paying cost of goods sold and operating expenses. From year four onwards, the revenue that WiredWest receives from subscriptions will go first to cover cost of goods sold, then to cover operating expenses, then to be set aside in the amount of depreciation reserve required by law, then to reimburse the towns for their debt service for that year.

The debt service reimbursement will be transferred to the town, which will be put into the town's general funds. That money will not be able to be spent by the town until the following year, when their free cash has been certified by the Department of Revenue.

WiredWest's projections indicate that if subscription rates meet expectations (equal to or greater than 40% of the premises), then revenues by that time will be sufficient to cover the cost of the debt payments, and with earlier year payments being modest, the towns may never realize any significant tax impact. In the later years, the projections indicate that excess cash will be generated after cost of goods sold, expenses, depreciation, and town debt service are paid. The board of WiredWest will decide at that time how to allocate any excess cash.

Bond Vote Failure

If the bond fails to pass, Monterey will not be part of the process of moving forward with planning and construction of the network, which then delays our town getting served with universal broadband. Monterey can reconsider the bond vote at a later meeting, but we will effectively stop the clock on bringing service here by delaying the passage of the bond authorization. Towns have until June 30, 2016 to vote to authorize their portion of the bond money to receive part of the state subsidy.

More Information

Please refer to the FAQs page on wiredwest.net, or their Facebook page for further information.

—Monica Webb —Larry Klein
528-2357 larson67@gmail.com
monica@wiredwest.net

Monterey Community Center News

Looking for the ideal spot to hold your family reunion? Organizing a group to work on helping older folks stay in their homes and need a place to meet? The Monterey Community Center will be home to these uses and many more—meeting spot, classes, performances, after-school groups, senior citizen activities… We are getting closer to the reality of having the building ready to use, though this summer still promises to see a construction zone.

We will be hosting a summer-long series of outdoor events again this year, making use of the gorgeous grounds of the Wilson McLaughlin property just up the hill from the post office. You will be able to see the schedule on our website (ccmonterey.org), and in the *Monterey News* calendar, and also find posters around town announcing things as they are coming up.

- Saturday, May 23, 10 to noon: Bird walk with local birder Joe Baker. See some spring migrants! Donation $10. Please pre-register, 528-9385.
- Sunday, May 24, 10 to 1: Annual Seedling and Plant Sale at the Community Garden.

More details on the following in the June *Monterey News*:

- Saturday, June 13, outdoor yoga with local instructor Connie Wilson.
- Saturday, June 20, painting workshop with local painter Kit Patten (cost TBD).
- Saturday, June 27, outdoor yoga with Tyringham instructor Tracy Remelius.
- Saturday, July 11, tag sale to benefit the MCC Meetings for a Monterey Drama Group (contact Maggie Barkin, mbarkin@snet.net)

Other events will be announced in the coming months—look for yoga, wildflower class, painting workshop, and more.

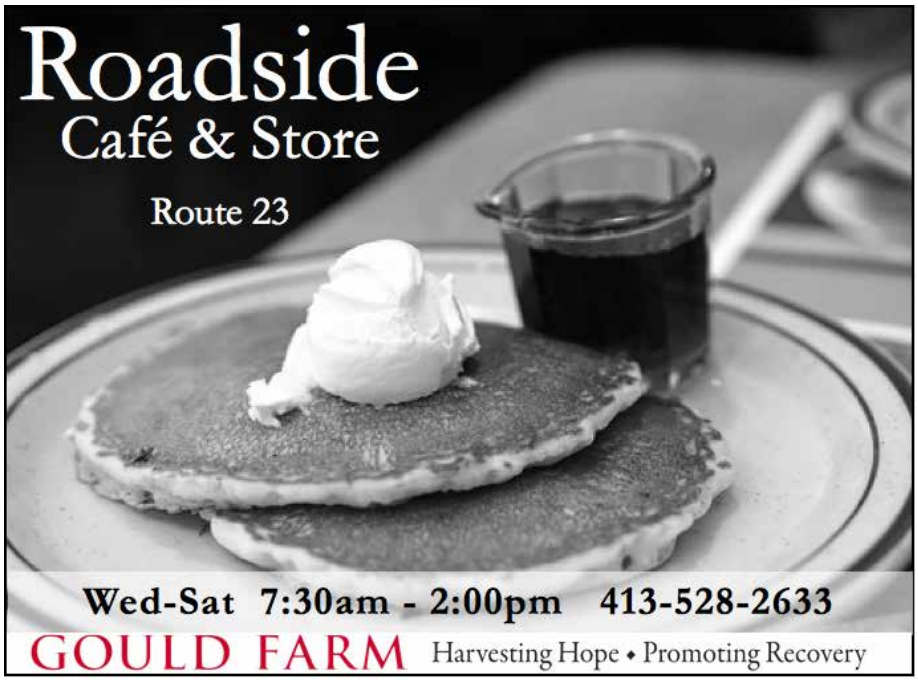
In addition to visiting our website as a source of information, don't forget to follow us (and like us) on Facebook.

—Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House

Eric Martin & Karen Axelrod

Free Concert on May 22.

Please join us for "Dancing Ears: A Voyage in Traditional Dance Music for the Listener" on Friday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Monterey meetinghouse. The concert will feature Monterey resident Eric Martin on violin (fiddle), viola, and voice, along with Northampton-based musician extraordinaire Karen Axelrod on piano and accordion. Eric and Karen will perform traditional music from the British Isles, France, Scandinavia, Quebec, Appalachia, and beyond. Presented by the Monterey Cultural Council. —Eric Martin



POB 9
Support Steven Weisz

Monterey is facing one of the few times when an election involves more than one candidate running for a position. As a select board member, I urge every citizen to come out and vote. The position of select board has two candidates. I am asking for your vote to elect Steven Weisz. I feel that he is a fresh face, and seems to be very able to fulfill the position. With Steven as the third member of the board, I feel that this board will work together much more efficiently than if Mr. Sylbert were to be elected. It is to this end that the town really needs to have a smoothly operating board, not one with past emotions nor of ego.

Mr. Weisz has shown a true passion for the town and has committed himself to many different committees and studies. He is currently a member of the town hall restructure committee that has been working diligently for about four months on devising a set of plans to be presented to the board after the election. I feel that his contributions of late show that he is ready and willing to be a member and get to work with both Kenn and myself. I want to move forward, not backwards. Please do consider a vote for Steve as a vote for the betterment of Monterey. Feel free to call me or email me with any questions as to my feelings towards this important election.

Thank you.

—Scott J. Jenssen
sjenssen9@gmail.com
528-1260

WiredWest
Opportunity for Monterey

There are many reasons to support the WiredWest initiative, and I would like to draw attention to several.

1. Our DSL service from Verizon used to be great (at least we could get it!), at a promised (not always delivered) speed of 2.8 mbps (the lower threshold for decent streaming from video services). The rest of the country, and much of the world, has moved way beyond that, to what is now the official standard of the FCC for "broadband" at 25 mbps, which is enjoyed by 80% of the US market. Hand-in-hand with that are higher and higher video resolutions, the ability to download and upload larger, more complex files, etc. We are literally being left in the dust.

2. Verizon has made clear, both regionally and nationally, that it is moving out of the copper landline business, and not just for internet access, but for phone service in many places—read: rural places with low population density (which should feel very familiar.) They are moving their business model to focus on cellular connections. Folks who have Verizon cell phones with no coverage in Monterey should feel a little unsure about what that means for them. For the rest of us, it could come to mean a big challenge in how we can communicate.

3. In the early days of the internet, connection was seen as an amenity, something that was peripheral to much of the economic and social activity in our culture. Large print ads would have small type directing people to their websites—how novel! The internet now is absolutely central to our culture, whether you go online much or not. So it stands to reason that this now has a big impact on how people make choices over products, services, jobs, and living locations. Wendy's son is an electrical engineer for a Swiss company working in the power industry. He lives in Southampton, MA, and works from home five days a week. His wife is a clinical engineer at Bay State Medical Center, and she works from home two days a week. Is it likely that a couple like that would even entertain the notion of buying a house in Monterey, with poor or no internet connection and no prospect of it improving? Small creative businesses can locate anywhere now—do you think they would move here?

4. Three important things to keep in mind with the upcoming bond vote.

- The towns that are in earliest are the first towns that will get built out.
- Towns have only until the end of June in 2016 to join the bond obligation if they want the 35% share of the cost that the state will provide.
- Recently WiredWest decided to include 750 feet of connection expense (for residences that do not have special conditions) for those customers who sign up "in the initial signup period", which means soon.

5. The reasons for making accessible to every home a technology whose capacity is very close to unlimited will never get any better than they are now. Delaying will not bring greater opportunity in the future, and very likely will involve considerably greater expense to the town, and to individuals.

I encourage everyone to attend the special town meeting at 7 p.m. on May 8. There should be opportunities to ask all the questions you want, and the bond requires a two-thirds vote to pass. If you are interested in joining the rest of the country, do not rely on others to make it happen.

—Stephen Moore

(This letter expresses a personal opinion, and is not a statement made by, or endorsed by, the Monterey News.*)*

The Tallest Flowers of Spring

Spring has come late and sudden, with crocuses and daffodils jumping out overnight where lately there were two feet of snow. Some of us are shocked, taken by surprise, feel the breath knocked out. Mud season ran by so fast, maybe it took place under the snow. Now, with the sun so strong and long, we better look up one more time, before the overbearing green comes out, the canopy that can drive people westward, or out to sea, longing for sky and distance.

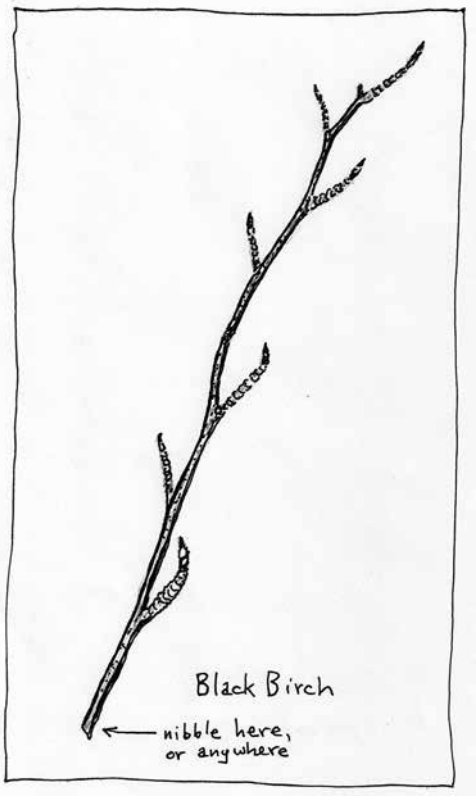
In May the leaves have not yet closed in. What comes first on the trees, are those tallest of flowers. Around here the red maples put out their pom-poms and sugar maples make graceful pale blooms, drooping way up high. Some folks will have clipped twigs from forsythia and pussy willows, bringing them inside to hurry along the blossoms. We can do this with any spring twigs, and some years I get in a slim beech branch so I can watch its leaf buds leaping out longer and pointier, with passing feathery edges before the leaf opens out of the long bud shape.

This year we have a jar on the windowsill with a black birch twig. I have known black birch twigs since earliest memory because my dad used to cut them for us to chew on. We nibbled the dark young bark and chewed it to get that sweet wintergreen flavor. I like to pass along this woodsy treat tradition, but it's not always easy because black birches grow tall and the tender bark is way up there on the new twigs. You have to be lucky and come upon a sapling, something you can bend over to get at the slender young twigs.

Black birch is common here, but not so easy to know. For one thing it looks something like a black cherry. In fact, one common name for it is "cherry birch," which refers to its appearance, not to a common fruit or flavor. The black cherry, also called rum cherry by some, has dark reddish bark when it is young. The bark is smooth and glossy, the leaves oval and occurring in an alternate pattern: one on the right the next on the left, then on the right again. The bark has horizontal breathing slits called lenticels, which are quite visible and distinctive. So far, the cherry resembles the young black birch in many ways. If the leaves are out, you can notice a difference in shape at the base, where the stem is attached, but if it is the middle of winter, with no leaves, you may need to take a nibble of the bark. The cherry is bitter, the black birch sweet.

We used to be able to buy soda pop called birch beer. In earlier times this was made from the sap of black birch trees. Some people still tap the birches, as if they were sugar maples, and boil down the sap to make syrup. Maple sap gives you a pint of syrup for forty pints of sap. Birch sap isn't as sweet, so the ratio is more like one pint from eighty.

Years ago there was a wintergreen oil industry, distilling the black birch to make flavorful oil for use in all kinds of ways, from medicine to pleasure. Usually when we think of wintergreen oil, we assume it comes from the low-growing wintergreen



plant. It can, and this is the very same thing chemically as comes from the black birch. The industry was based on the birches, though, and even as recently as 1950 there were some wood-fired stills in operation, making oil of wintergreen. People cut and chipped up black birch saplings. Then someone found the same oil could be made synthetically and more easily using wood alcohol and salicylic acid. Salicylic acid is a pain reliever, found in aspirins also in willow trees. Of course the chemists have figured out ways to put this ingredient together without going near a birch or a willow. Just go to the lab.

With spring here at last, it's a good thing for everyone to get out of the lab and into the woods. Look up for the black birch flowers. They come it two kinds, male or female. Both are catkins and have been present all winter. The males will be drooping and long, giving off pollen. The females look like little cones and stand

Camp Half Moon
Celebrating 90 Amazing Summers on Lake Buel
Sleepover & Day Camp
Boys & Girls Ages 3 to16
Flexible Sessions
Heated Pool Skate Park High Ropes
Gymnastics Zip-Line Tennis Sailing
Team Sports Dance Crafts Pottery Waterskiing Judo Archery Rocketry Golf
Yoga Camping & so much more!
info@camphalfmoon.com
www.camphalfmoon.com
Call 888 528 0940
Come Join the Fun!

up at the ends of short spurs or branches. By late fall or winter, the little three-lobed seeds will shake loose from those cones and be carried by the wind. If there is a crusty snow, they'll blow along on top. In April or May, whenever the snow is gone and the ground loosened, the seeds will warm up in a moist place and germinate after about a month.

Meanwhile, those similar-looking rum cherry trees will have gone their own way with a fleshy fruit, designed not to disperse on the wind but thanks to animals who eat cherries but then spit out the seeds or else don't digest them and leave them somewhere for sprouting in the spring. Some animals, like chipmunks (and me) like the almond-like nut inside the cherry pits. Chipmunks run up to the tops of the trees in the fall and nibble off the fruit, pack the pits into their cheek pouches, and come back down to store all those nuts somewhere. Bears eat cherries wherever they find them, often on the ground under the tree. Then the pits pass right through their systems unscathed. One year some of us were walking on Mt. Hunger on the Monterey Land Trust. We came to a place where there were at least a hundred tiny cherry trees coming up in less than one square foot, in the middle of the trail, well fertilized.

Dramatic changes come every day. There's just too much in any waking moment, so we have to make choices where to walk, where to look. Some days it's up, some days it's down, but there's always a great reward, especially in spring.

—Bonner McAllester

Contributors (April 2015)

Thank you so much to the following folks for your recent contributions to our annual appeal. We are very grateful for your steady support of our community newspaper.

Dave & Jody Soules
Peter & Joan Brown
Melanie Shepard
Eve LaBelle
Herbert Singer
Robert & Muriel Lazzarini
Martin & Janet Feldman
Nancy Monk
Jon Schweitzer
Claudette Callahan
David & Flora Perskie
Jeffrey & Gillian Szanto
Helen Heller
Paul & Delight Dodyk
Lis & Virgil Stucker
Sue Ellen & Phil Knoll
Tunk & Dede Loring
Maureen Haugh
Marc & Katherine Roberts
Gail Heath
Richard & Leslie Roth
Norma Champigny
Stacy Wallach
Ira Transport
David & Jennifer Quisenberry
Murray & Jeanne Bodin
George & Patricia Crocco
Mike Freundlich
Louise Snyder
David and Judith Kaprelian
Clarence & Nancy Hall
Eleanor Gradziel
Andrew & Eileen Seirup
Louise Henry
Ronald & Elizabeth Oppenheimer
Ronald Galen
Joseph Quagliata
Karen & Jeffrey Kirson
Judith Kaminstein
Bruce Regenstreich
Marion Simon
Rosalyn Halberstadter
Carol & Jim Edelman
William Bennett
William Ban
Maurice Mandel
Debby & Mark Bauman
Samuel & Aleta Estreicher
Storrs & Shirley Olds
Rebecca Phelps
Robert Menaker
Peggy Reeves
Robert & Catherine Rodgers
Carole & Richard Lucks
John & Stella Bodnar
Arleen Tolopko
Michael Wilcox
Barbara D'Amato & Matthew Breuer
Eileen Brennan
Charles & Carol Smoler
Alice Roth
Philip & Marilyn Lombardo
Dean & Nancy Lombardo
Franklin Gurtman
Georgianna O'Connell
Mark & Phyllis Cash
Martin & Jane Schwartz
Mark & Joan Abramowitz
Janet Ansbro

SARAH JACKSON MFA, MA
JUNGIAN ANALYSIS & PSYCHOTHERAPY
Is your self-judgment interfering with your life?

"The most terrifying thing is to accept yourself completely".
C.G. Jung

psychotherapy.sarahjacksonmfa.com
psycheisimage@gmail.com
413.528.1135

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

with
KIT PATTEN
Lotus Palm School Certified
"The best massage I ever had." – E.D., Monterey
413-528-3798

(Contributors-April, cont. from p. 21)

Jon Melzer
Susan Weiner & Chris Aidun
Leonard Weisman
Glenn & Christie Wall
Louis & Clare Rigali
Thomas & Melissa Scheffey
Stefan & Stephanie Grotz
Peter & Susan LePrevost
Nicholas & Elizabeth Wool
William Bell
Agnes Mulroy
Cynthia Weber
Peter & Evelyn Vallianos
Robert Rausch
Elias Lien & Brooke Dyer-Bennet
Osborns & Etta Dugan
Joseph & Rhonda Daponte
Katherine Walker
Leslie & Curtis Paine
Linda & Bob Hebert
Richard & Marianne Jaffe
Barbara Adams
Gerry & Midori Curtis
Phyllis Epstein
Everett Fennelly
Christine & Ron Goldfinger
Carl & Elise Hartman
Mattia Henley-Zwirz
Malinka Jackson
Judith Oplinger
Myrna Randolph
Maureen Regan
Peter & Karen Schulze
Chang Family
Steven & Rita Schwartz
Alvin & Myrna Schneiderman
Laurie & Gary Shaw
Lonnie Solomon
William Swan
Bebe Berstein
Carole & Gerry Clarin
Stuart & Elaine Edelstein
Francine Eget
David Emmel
Cheryl Zellman & Marc Gordan
Judith Friedman
Angelina Dubourg
Robert Kuhner
Michael & Troi Lefkowitz
Janet McKee
Paul Rissman
Kyle & Don Pierce
Bob & Rita Stevens
Dick & Pat Schroeder
Kyp & Joe Wasiuk
Eugene & Eleanor Bounous
Wayne & Donna Burkhart
Neil & Helen Curtin
Frank D'Amato
Barbara Gauthier
Rudy Gero
Ian Jenkins
Richard & Rosalind Kaufman
Daniel Menaker
Gillian Panchy
Ellen Pearson
Chuck Pierce & John Farrell
Sandra Preston
Stan and Edie Ross
John Sellew and Susan Bronson
Melvyn and Karen Selsky
Elizabeth and Larry Silk

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Council on Aging

The next "Off Your Rocker" group luncheon will be at noon on Tuesday, April 28, at the Farmington River Diner in Otis. The council will subsidize each meal $2 and the gratuity. Please contact Maryellen Brown (below) if you'll be there so we can give the diner a likely head count.

A bus trip is planned to the Clark Museum for Thursday, May 28. The thirteen-passenger bus will leave town hall at 10 a.m. to arrive at the museum by 11:30, with time for lunch before a guided tour at 1 p.m. Except for lunch this trip will be paid for by the Council on Aging. Reservation must be made with Maryellen Brown, 528-1598, or mbrown007@earthlink.net, by Friday, May 15.

—Kay Purcell

ॐ

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road
Great Barrington,
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085
Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

TKG The Kinderhook Group

Christine Martin
Licensed in MA and CT
cell
413-717-7217
fax
413-895-2444
email:
Cmartin@tkgre.com
office:
10 Elm St., Stockbridge

Bidwell House Announces 2015 Season Program

The Bidwell House Museum, Monterey's own colonial history museum, announced its 25th anniversary season program today. The museum is featuring a series of events cewlebrating life in the Berkshires and New England, from the from the Native Americans to the first English settlers, to the mid-1800s. The history talk series will feature five authors and professors. A special workshop is planned with ecologist Tom Wessels, exploring how to "read the forested landscape" in a talk and walk on June 27.

The museum is inviting the whole community to the sixth annual Township Number 1 Day on Friday, July 3, to celebrate local history with fun events for all ages, and to the other season highlights: the opening concert on Sunday, May 24, featuring Diane Taraz singing and playing lap dulcimer, and the festive garden party benefitting the museum on August 15.

The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage site providing a personal encounter with history, early American home life, and the Berkshire landscape through its land, house, and collection. The museum is a nonprofit educational institution for the benefit of the community and today's audiences of all ages, dedicated to preservation, scholarship, and enjoyment of the landmark site.

Tours of the homestead tell the story of the early settlement of the Berkshires and of life on the frontier. The museum is open Thursdays through Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with tours on the hour, from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The entire museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails, and beautiful picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

2015 Season Program

May 24, Concert and Opening Reception: Tickle Me Fancy! What made people giggle in 1642? What tickled their funny bone in 1776, and what left them rolling in the aisles in 1847? Join Diane Taraz as she roams through the centuries, exploring how our sense of humor has evolved with songs and stories that lifted spirits and helped people survive challenging times. Diane will sing and play guitar and lap dulcimer at a special celebration to open the 25th anniversary season of the museum. Reception and Refreshments. Event free for members. 3 p.m.

May 28, Docent training workshop: 11 a.m. Interested? Please join us.

June 7, Gardening Program: 10 a.m.

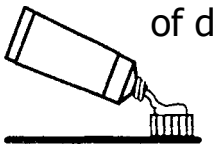
June 13, History Detectives—Secrets of an Old House: Architectural historian Bill Finch and architect Steve McAlister will present what they discovered during their eight-month study of the Bidwell House building. They will explain techniques they used to investigate the house, construction techniques, and building materials, and what they discovered of its past. The Historic Structure Study was funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. 10 a.m.

June 20, History Talk: Women and Men—Gender Difference in Early America. John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University will speak on his research of the roles of the sexes in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

June 27, Special Workshop: Reading the Forested Landscape. Noted ecologist Tom Wessels will speak on his approaches to interpreting a landscape's history, using evidence on trees, stumps, vegetation, and topography. Talk and slideshow,10–11:30 a.m. , 11:30 BYO lunch and discussion, 12:30–2:30 p.m. exploration of the Bidwell Forest.

July 3, Bidwell House Museum Township No. 1 Day: A free community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history. Colonial re-enactors, live music by local musicians, children's activities, baking contest, historic craft demonstrations, author talks, more… For details and individual event times, please check bidwellhousemuseum.org or call 528-6888. Supported in part by grants from the Monterey and Tyringham Cultural Councils. 1–4:00 p.m. Free. Please note: the museum is closed for tours this day. >

For those who believe a second home should still be first class
WILLIAM BROCKMAN
real estate
www.berkshiresforsale.com
413.528.4859

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist
All phases of dentistry

528-6520
Route 23 Monterey

July 11, Gardening Program: 10 a.m.

July 18, History Talk: To Live upon Hope: Mohicans and Missionaries in the 18th Century Northeast. Rachel Wheeler, Assoc. Professor at Indiana University, will speak on her research of Jonathan Edwards and the Stockbridge Mohicans. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

July 25, History Talk: 50 Years in an Indian Town: Reflection on the Stockbridge Experience. Bonney Hartley, Historic Preservation Assistant and member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohicans, will talk about how the short time living in Stockbridge (1735–85) forever changed the tribe. She will present how they carry many of the lessons or consequences from that experience with them as a tribe today in Wisconsin. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

Aug. 8, History Talk: Puritan, Entrepreneur…Heretic? David M. Powers will speak on the fascinating story of early colonist William Pynchon (1590-1662), founder of Springfield, MA, and subject of his just published book *Damnable Heresy: William Pynchon, the Indians, and the First Book Banned (and Burned) in Boston*. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. 10 a.m.

August 15, 25th Anniversary Party for the Bidwell House Museum: Live music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and silent and live auction at a magical Berkshire property. Party benefits the historic 1750s Bidwell House Museum. 4 –7 p.m. 528-6888.

Aug. 22, Gardening Program: 10 a.m.

Aug. 29, History Talk: 18th & 19th Century Waterpowered Industry in the Upper Housatonic River Valley. Author Bernard Drew on his new book about how waterpower shaped Berkshire towns and the industries that grew from it. Talk at Monterey Town Hall, walk to nearby mill sites. 435 Main Road, Monterey. 10 a.m.

Sept. 19, Housatonic Heritage Walk—Champion Oak Trees: A guided walk on Bidwell lands exploring flora and fauna of the Berkshire upland forest. Led by Richard Greene. Please dress for the weather and terrain and bring water. 10 a.m.

Sept. 26, Families in the Wild: Enjoy the wonders of nature, foraging for wild edibles, playing games, and creating fire together with ancient tools. Outdoor adventure day led by Flying Deer Nature Center staff on the Bidwell grounds. For parents and children age 5 to 12. Advance reservations necessary. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Oct. 4, Housatonic Heritage Walk: Centuries of Stone Walls. Explore the over 4 miles of stone walls on Bidwell grounds built by settlers and farmers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and learn about the various stone wall styles. Led by Rob Hoogs. Please dress for the weather and terrain and bring water. 2 p.m.

Nov. 21, Colonial Thanksgiving Party: Benefit for the museum with live music, refreshments, and silent auction. 4–7 p.m.

Please call or email for more information: 413-528-6888, bidwellhouse@gmail.com, bidwellhousemuseum.org; 100 Art School Road, Box 537, Monterey, MA 01245.

Monterey Library Notes

Evergreen, the software that CWMARS uses to connect more than 150 libraries, was just updated. The program allows patrons and staff to manage thousands of daily transactions. Some of the features updated should make it easier for you to use it. There are changes to the OPAC (online catalog) so you'll be able to separate out audio books and downloadable audio books. There are new icons that have further refined the item categories than before.

If you haven't started to manage your library account online, now is a good time to try. You'll be able to keep track of what you have out, renew online, and perhaps the best feature is that you can order anything in the system at any time. All you need is a CWMARS card, so come the Monterey Library if you don't have one already.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

❊

DENNIS J. DOWNING
Attorney at Law

❊

17 Mahaiwe Street
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-5040
Facsimile: (413) 528-5095
Email:dennis.downing@verizon.net

Longstanding quality craftsman
timberframe homes / barns
restoration / classic stone
custom furniture design

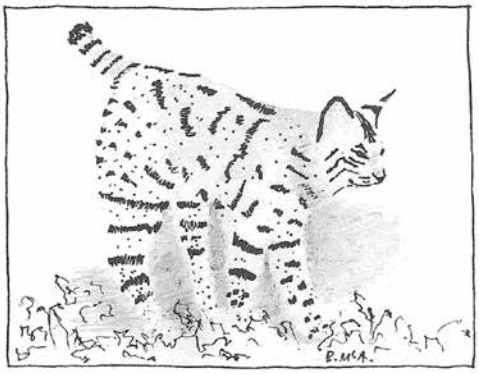
Eric Pedersen Construction
413-528-3594 / 822-1510
30+ yrs in & around Monterey
eric7inc@gmail.com

CSL#089323 / HIC#144849 / reg. MA Sawyer

Turkey Time
April in Monterey

We've had a great herd of turkey sightings in the last month, partly because there are many turkeys to be seen, but also because this is the time the toms are so showy. Carol Edelman, Suzanne Sawyer, Felix Carroll, and Roz Halberstadter have seen the males in full display, and they have seen flocks of females not far away in most cases. I saw a mixed group myself this morning on Cold Spring Road, and Cora Baker told me about turkeys enjoying dustbaths at her place.

Steve Snyder saw a Bald Eagle high in the sky over Main House at Gould Farm, many ducks on the ponds, and Cedar Waxwings and robins enjoying little fruits on the Bradford pear trees. The ducks so far have been Hooded Mergansers, Green Winged Teal, Wood Ducks, Black Ducks, and Mallards. We've had Wood Ducks here, too, on the pond at Cora Baker's house next door. (See George Emmons's article on Wood Ducks on p. 13.)



Some nature-noters have written in about Pileated Woodpeckers lately. At the end of March, Mary Kate Jordan saw one on an old birch near the house over by Stevens Lake. Suzanne Sawyer saw one in the wooded part of their yard, and one flew over our garden right after sunrise one morning. Suzanne also has a Red-Bellied Woodpecker coming every day, and Joe Baker and a friend heard a Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker drumming here on the east end of Hupi Road.

As for mammals, Cara Carroll saw one cross Tyringham Road, a teen-aged bear, she thinks. She swerved hard to miss it and is "still sore from swerving!" Ann and John Higgins saw a big bobcat, about the size of a golden retriever, cross Route 23 near Avalon School, and Scott Weingartner saw a similar big one, maybe even the same cat, stroll through the woods at his place on Corashire Road. Suzanne Sawyer tells of a mink crossing the road by Butternut in early April, and Steve Moore reports ten minutes of watching a Red Fox lying in the sun in the grass near his house.

Besides all these fine birds and mammals, we have frogs starting up in the ponds and vernal pools, also invertebrates in the form of ticks! Already at least one dog and one person have hosted ticks and lived to tell the tale. The person was the most nervous—not the dog, not the tick.

Thank you for all your reports. The coltsfoots are blooming along the gravelly road shoulders. This is our wild, alive world.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385, bmca@berkshire.net

Precision Autocraft
THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR
High Quality Body Repair and Finishing
▸Complete Collision
▸Paint ▸Glass Services
▸Laser Frame Measuring
▸Computer Controlled Estimating and Paint Mixing Systems
413-528-1457
1-800-734-1457
Approved Auto Body Repair
Rt. 7 - 1939 North Main St. Sheffield, MA

Transfer Station
Kicking the Proverbial Can Down the Road

In 1982, the Monterey landfill closed and was replaced with the Monterey transfer station, which was designed and built to handle 300 tons of trash per year. In 1995, the Department of Environmental Protection granted an operational permit to the town and the transfer station and stated that "the facility shall not accept more than 400 tons per year." In 1997 the select board tasked the solid waste committee to come up with plans to deal with safety and structural concerns at the transfer station and the increased use that was approaching the 400-ton maximum. After many meetings, the committee realized that the transfer station needed much more than the original $10,000 estimate would cover.

Thus began the first of eighteen years of plans and proposals "kicked down the road" for lack of will and/or monies. The end of the road has arrived. While the original estimate was woefully underfunded, each year of inactivity has increased the dollar amount. Each year has brought new state regulations and each year has brought more trash (550 tons last year) that has to be handled in ever-more expensive ways. We can no longer put off what is needed at the transfer station, and for that reason the select board, director of operations, and a consultant from the Center for Ecological Technology looked at both renovating the existing facility or building a new facility.

To Renovate the Existing Transfer Station

The existing transfer station is located on a 300 x 300-foot site that cannot expand with Monterey's needs. The traffic flow creates dangerous safety issues that cannot be mitigated in the existing space. The concrete retaining walls that support the upper portion are failing and will have to be replaced. There are no safety railings in place. The state is taking a much closer look at the operations of transfer stations, and the initial proposals regarding space necessary for a safe operation would seriously impact our existing operation. Recycling has increased the number >

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. We use this page each month in the Monterey News to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. We welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, May 4 and 18 at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, May 12, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesdays, May 13 and 27, at 10 a.m.

Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, May 14, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, May 14, 9 to 11:30 a.m. by appointment (please call 528-1598) All ages are welcome.

Park Commission: Wednesday, May 6, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, May 14 and 28, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board meetings: Mondays, May 4 and 18, at 8:30 a.m. (administrative business from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.) and May 11 at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Informational meeting: Finance committee will host an informational meeting to discuss the monetary articles on the annual town meeting warrant on Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m, at the town hall meeting room.

Special Town Meeting: Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. at the firehouse, to deal with remaining FY 2015 financial issues.

Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, May 2, 9:30 a.m. at the firehouse.

Special Town Meeting (WiredWest article): Friday, May 8, 7 p.m. at the firehouse.

Office/Town Hall Closings

Town hall will be closed on Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day.

The administrative assistant's office will be closed on Friday, May 22.

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend calling ahead.

Other News

The annual town meeting warrant has been mailed to all registered voter households; if you did not receive a copy you can view it online atmontereyma.gov, click on "About Monterey." Click on "Town Warrants," or stop by the town hall to pick up a hard copy. If you have any questions about the monetary items on the annual town meeting warrant, please plan on attending the informational meeting the finance committee will be hosting on Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m. in the town hall.

We will be posting construction updates through our "News & Events" emails once work begins on Route 23. Please sign up so you can stay informed. Go to montereyma.gov, click on "Subscribe to News" in the left hand menu, and follow the directions to sign up for all the alerts you are interested in. This is an opt-in process, so you will need to confirm that you did subscribe when you get the first email.

—Wayne Burkhart, Chair
Scott Jenssen and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board
montereyma.gov

(Transfer Station, cont. from p. 25)

and size of dumpsters necessary on the site. The location of the Swap Shop creates serious parking problems.

When you take the list of problems and begin to design solutions for them, you quickly realize what the original committee in 1997 learned—the site is inadequate. There is no design that can be developed that makes for a safe, convenient, and cost-effective operation within the restrictions of the existing space. If we were to try and correct the safety and failing structural problems, the estimated costs would be more than $150,000, and we would end up with a transfer station that still does not meet the needs of Monterey, let alone the needs of the future.

To Build a New Transfer Station

The existing transfer station sits on a ten-acre site that was at one time the town's landfill. Roughly fifty yards to the west and part of the ten-acre property is a flat and easily accessible site that the select board is proposing to use for a new transfer station.

Five years ago, the director of operations had a local engineering firm develop a preliminary plan for the site. Using that plan as a starting point, we are proposing to build a new transfer station that will meet all existing state and local codes, will be safe for the residents to use, and will be cost-effective in operations. It is only a matter of time until we have a serious accident or a structural failure at our transfer station. We cannot afford not to take action.

The estimated cost is over $300,000, but with proper management and cost control we can borrow at favorable rates for a ten-year note that we can fiscally handle without serious impact to our budget. Every time we put off a capital project, the costs go up. Let's take the responsible course of action and make the transfer station right.

Maps, designs, and more information will be available at the finance committee informational meeting on Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m. at the town hall, and at town meeting on May 2, beginning at 9 a.m. at the firehouse.

—Monterey Select Board

Calendar

Every Sunday: Adult softball, batting practice 10:30, games 11; starting May 24, batting practice at 10, games 10:30. Greene Park.

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meetings. See p. 26.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Through Saturday, May 2: *SPACED-out-LINED,* paintings and photographs by Meryl Wilen-Greenfield, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library.

Saturday, May 2:

Special town teeting, 9 a.m. see p. 25.

Annual town meeting, 9:30 a.m. see p. 25, childcare available 9:15 to 12:30.

Friday, May 8–June 20: *Tailored: Stitched, Patched, Threaded, & Pinned,* curated by Dee Shapiro, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 11.

Friday, May 8: Special town meeting on WiredWest, 7 p.m., at firehouse.

Saturday, May 9: *Tailored: Stitched, Patched, Threaded, & Pinned,* Opening 6:30 to 8 p.m., Artists talk at 6 p.m.

Tuesdays, May 12 and 26: Sewing circle, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Thursday, May 14:

Council on Aging, foot care clinic, 9 to 11:30 a.m., town hall meeting room. Call Maryellen Brown at 518-1598 for an appointment.

Health Promotion program with VNA, 2 to 3 p.m., town hall meeting room.

Saturday, May 16: Lenox Contradance, Live music by Cardinal Direction, with calling by Dave Eisenstadter, 8 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 8. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 413-528-4007.

Monday, May 18: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library, will discuss *The Faithful Wife,* by Sigrid Undset.

Friday, May 22: Free concert, "Dancing Ears", 7:30 p.m., Monterey meetinghouse. See p. 18.

Karen Shreefter Landscape Design

Working with clients to create captivating landscapes & gardens

413.528.1387
karen@kslandscapedesign.com
www.kslandscapedesign.com

Alarm Response - Security Checks
Key Holder - Property Management
Residential - Commercial

KMB
HOUSE CHECKING
UNLIMITED

Kristopher M. Balestro
10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington, MA 01230

kbalestro@aol.com
home 413.528.3944
cell 413.429.7094

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 23: Otis Cultural Council Tag sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Otis Ski Ridge.

Sunday, May 24: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Annual Seedling and Plant Sale at the Community Garden.

Saturday, May 30 and Sunday May 31: Children's Attic, CHP maternity and children's consignment sale, see p. 5.

PO Box 9

A big "thank you" to the Monterey highway department for doing a tough job through a wild and record-breaking winter season. I live on a hilly, curvy road like most of us, and as an RN I have to work when I'm called for, not when I can. I had to leave the house and return at all hours of the day and night this winter and, aside from one early slush event, everything went smoothly. Thanks again!

—Elizabeth Maschmeyer

BOOK$ THAT BALANCE

Books That Balance
Bookkeeping Services

Darlene Balestro

10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington,
MA 01230
413.528.3944
413.446.4547
booksthatbalance@yahoo.com

intuit Certified ProAdvisor QuickBooks

MONTEREY NEWS
PO Box 9
Monterey, MA 01245-0009

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GREAT BARRINGTON MA
PERMIT NO 95

Change Service Requested

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking
Professional Year-Round Maintenance of Your House and Grounds
Celebrating over 30 years in business
528-0864
We Return Your Calls
Since 1975 • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured
P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Buying or selling your home in the Berkshires?
Corashire Realty, est.1966

CORASHIRE REALTY
Nancy Dinan, founder

Deborah D. Mielke
(O) 413-528-0014
(H) 413-528-1871
(C) 413-329-8000
corashirerealty@gmail.com

To see our Monterey Listings please visit
www.corashire.com
Also use our link to view other offerings in MLS.

Copyright © Monterey News 2015
email: montereynews9@gmail.com

Editor.....Stephen Moore
Town Reporter..... Dave Irland
Copy Editor.....Hannah Fries
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 13;
Bonner McAllester, pgs 20, 25; Deborah Pressman, p. 26.

BIZEN
Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes
備前
On the Cutting Edge
"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times
Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-4343
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10